

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03369 091009Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 DHA-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /085 W
-----123264 091014Z /13

O 090940Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8012

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT

SUBJECT: SWA/NAMIBIA ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL DESIGNATE

REF: (A) PRETORIA 3312, (B) LUSAKA 1929,

1. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SWA/NAMIBIA ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL DESIGNEE, MARTHINUS T. STEYN. STEYN, HOWEVER, IS LITTLE KNOWN OUTSIDE THE LEGAL FIELD. SOURCES DESCRIBE HIM AS AN OPEN-MINDED, APOLITICAL JURIST WITH A STRONG PERSONALITY. HE IS WELL THOUGHT OF BY HIS LEGAL COLLEAGUES.

2. THE DFA HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT STEYN HAS IN NO WAY BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH NAMIBIAN AFFAIRS. MUYONGO (REF B) HAS CONFUSED THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL DESIGNEE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUSTICE L.C. STEYN WHO REPRESENTED THE SAG BEFORE THE WORLD COURT ON THE NAMIBIAN CASE IN 1949-50.

3. IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW JULY 8, STEYN STRESSED HIS NEUTRAL AND NON-POLITICAL APPROACH TO HIS JOB. "I HAVE NEVER BEEN TO SWA", HE SAID, "AND HAVE NOT BEEN ENGAGED IN POLITICS. I HAVE MADE THE LAW MY CAREER." HE SAID

HE WOULD APPROACH HIS NEW POSITION "WITH A COMPLETELY
OPEN MIND" SINCE HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION
THERE EXCEPT AS "AN ITEM IN THE NEWS". ASKED HIS
ATTITUDE ABOUT WORKING WITH THE UN OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES
IN SWA, STEYN REPLIED, "THAT WOULD DEPEND UPON THE TERMS ON
WHICH THEY WOULD DEMAND OR REQUEST ENTRY... ONE FEELS OF COURSE
THAT THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE TERRITORY ITSELF TO DECIDE,
BUT NEVERTHELESS ONE WANTS TO TAKE A DECISION AS TO WHO WILL
MAKE UP THE GOVERNMENT AS CONVINCINGLY AS POSSIBLE." IN AN
SABC INTERVIEW JULY 8 STEYN REPEATED THESE THOUGHTS AND SAID
BLANDLY THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO BE FAIR AND ACT ALWAYS IN
THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN SWA/NAMIBIA.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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